THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 24th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—LOUD-SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHAMBER.

MR. SPEAKER:—"A few minutes ago the Electrical Supervisor came to my room and told me that the relay switches were not in order for the mikes, and that he had temporarily fixed what are known as manual switches. Hon. Members should, therefore, press the button in the first instance, wait for a few seconds, and then put their questions. Then only the questions will be audible."

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to inform the House that the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour is not keeping good health and is not attending the House to-day. So, questions* relating to his departments will be taken up tomorrow."

Representation made to the Finance Commission.

* 191-A *Q.*—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have presented any memorandum to the Finance Commission during their present visit; and

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"(*a*) The Government of Madras have submitted Memoranda to the Finance Commission in regard to the allocation of a share of income-tax among the Part A States, grants-in-aid to States under Article 275 of the Constitution and the allocation of a share of Union duties of Excise to the State Governments. The Government have also had discussions with the Commission in regard to these and allied matters.

"(*b*) As the Finance Commission has not yet completed its enquiry on the representations made by the various State Governments, the Government are communicating with the Finance Commission about placing copies of the Memoranda on the table of the House."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"We are not able to hear the Minister's reply, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I cannot help it. The mike is not working."

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* Questions Nos. 186, 190, 192, 198 and 201 answered on 26th July 1952.

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether it will not be helpful to the Government if they take the House also into their confidence by placing the memoranda on the table of the House, so that they can have the opinion of the House in their favour to strengthen their hands?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I realize the value of the suggestion, Sir; that is why we are in communication with the Finance Commission to have their permission to place copies of the memoranda on the table of the House."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Will it be possible for the Government to consider not merely the suggestions made in the memoranda but also other suggestions which the House may make, and will the Government be able to allot a day to discuss those matters on the floor of this House?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I will consider this suggestion also."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH:—" Sir, will the Government consider the question of appealing to the Central Government for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 10 crores for the Rayalaseema Famine relief?"

MR. SPEAKER:—" The present question relates to the submission of memoranda to the Finance Commission. How does the hon. Member's supplementary question arise out of this main question?"

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH:—" Sir, in the recommendations to the Finance Commission, this subject I have referred to may also be included."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The memoranda have already been submitted."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI:—" May I know whether our Government have been emphatic in their representations to the Central Government, and whether there is any hope of our getting substantial subventions from the Central Government from out of the divisible pool of income-tax and also excise duties?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" We have made representations; I do not know whether they will be considered as emphatic or positive or anything else. I think we have made fairly effective representations. The Finance Commission are almost a judicial body, and I think they will consider all aspects and come to a just conclusion. That is our hope."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—" In view of the fact that this is an important question regarding the reallocation of the finances between the Centre and the States, in which the people of this State are very much interested, will the Hon. the Finance

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Minister consider the desirability of placing the matter before the House, so that the people may be informed about it even without the permission of the Finance Commission, because I think their permission is unnecessary as this is a matter concerning the people?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I think the hon. Member has come a little late. This suggestion has already been made by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition that the memoranda should be placed before the House, and I said I was quite prepared to consider that suggestion. Anyhow, I may say that we think it is necessary to have the permission of the Commission; and it is a matter of opinion whether such permission is necessary or not."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know if the Government are prepared at least to give a gist of the memoranda submitted, so that the House may have an idea of what was going on?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I have stated that we are prepared to place the entire memoranda on the table of the House, so that hon. Members may go through them fully; but ordinary propriety requires that we should get the permission of the Finance Commission before we can place them on the table of the House."

Ghiriyar Project.

* 193 *Q.*—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the investigation of the Ghiriyar Project is complete;

(*b*) if so, what is its estimated cost; and

(*c*) whether it has been included in the Five-Year Plan?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"(*a*) Yes. The results are being scrutinized by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation).

"(*b*) There are two alternative proposals for the scheme; the first alternative which is for the diversion of the waters of the Ghiriyar to the Kottaimalaiyar river is estimated to cost Rs. 188·9 lakhs and the second alternative which is for the diversion of the waters of the Ghiriyar to the Valaimalaiyar river is estimated to cost Rs. 92 lakhs.

"(*c*) No."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether, if the people contribute the finance, the scheme will be taken up by the Government? I am prepared to undertake to collect Rs. 50 lakhs from the ryots; are the Government prepared to execute this scheme, Sir?" 10-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"The proposal will be considered."